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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Lumbering Operations in Vologda Oblast,  
Arkhangel'sk Administrative UnitPLACE  
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In 1939 many [redacted] were taken prisoners by the Soviets and sent to a Soviet prison camp called Shentzuga. This was a small settlement which used the Poduga post office, and was located in the Vologda Oblast of the Arkhangel'sk Administrative Unit.
2. Together with a few neighboring settlements, Shentzuga had a history dating back to the Czarist era. These settlements were inhabited by criminals and deserters from the Czarist army. After the revolution the settlements were used to house people considered to be the "unreliable element". In the early 1930's forcible resettlement of about 17,000 Ukrainians took place. Since they were left in this cold climate, without adequate clothing and without any food, many of them perished and [redacted] only approximately 1,000 were left.
3. The director of the settlement, as well as his subordinates, were members of the NKVD. The director's name was Lt (fnu) Ogurtsov. Of average intelligence, he was in his early 40's (1941). He was assisted by (fnu) Marchenko, (fnu) Zukov, and (fnu) Sokolov. These, however, were not officers but civilians of a limited educational background.
4. Time worked in the forests was determined solely by Lt. Ogurtsov. Without the slightest provocation, he would cancel [redacted] Sunday off days and put [redacted] to work loading timber on trains and doing other tasks.
5. [redacted] work groups consisted of three to six persons and [redacted] were equipped with Canadian-type saws and axes. Timber was cut to given size and transported on Canadian sleighs to the river, where it was stored on the banks. In the spring, usually late April when the ice had melted, the timber was dumped into the river. During this period, work was on a 24-hour a day schedule. The timber was floated down the river to Poduga where large cranes picked it out of the water.

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6. According to experts, timber from this area was considered to be the best in the world [sic]. It consisted of approximately five per cent pine cut into logs six to nine meters in length; spruce cut from 4.20 to 9.5 meters in length for paper pulp and three-meter long logs used for fuel. Some of the cut spruce was also used for lumber; aspen cut into three-meter long logs and used for fuel; and birch cut into three-meter long logs also used for fuel. The annual production for the Podyuga Unit (LES-PROM-HOZ) was approximately 500,000 to 700,000 cubic meters. Wood that was cut for fuel was sent mainly to Moscow. Podyuga also manufactured ties for railways and these were shipped to the Far East.
7. Production quotas were vastly exaggerated. This was done in order to increase production. For instance, a quota was released for so many cubic meters to be cut per year and all groups of foresters made an effort to approach that figure. Whether the quota was reached or not, the originally contracted figure was credited to their account at the end of the year.
8. In the spring, when the logs were recovered from the river, there was always a shortage of several hundred thousand cubic meters of timber. The annual report to Moscow indicated, however, that this amount of timber was unrecovered and had been waterlogged, which, of course, was a lie.
9. In the extremely cold weather of the winter, and in order to avoid work [redacted] asked for admission to the high school in Podyuga. After a few days in jail, Lt Ogurtzov granted [redacted] permission. The school was located in a large, new, wooden building that had all the necessary facilities except laboratories. There were about 800 pupils who were taught by 15 teachers. Non-resident students resided in the so-called "Internat" area. This consisted of several barracks of very shabby construction and although it was built for 20 persons, 40 were crowded into it. A large stove, situated in the middle of each barrack, served both for heating and for cooking.
10. The students did not receive any food and [redacted] daily diet consisted of 400 grams of bread and a few potatoes [redacted]. The supply of textbooks was very poor and there was no writing paper. [redacted] sold a stamp album to the school office for 50 rubles which was used for writing paper. The standard of teaching and the curriculum was rather high, the teachers were intelligent and efficient, and one had to work hard to earn his credits.

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